MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know what policy Government is now adopting ?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON : Encouraging and helping aided schools and opening new schools wherever there is a demand for them.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : What is the difficulty that stands in the way of Government introducing compulsory primary education at present ?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON : Inadequacy of funds.

Sale of Toddy.

177 *MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Assembly has passed a resolution prohibiting sale of toddy after 6 P. M. and whether the Government have adopted the same ; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to enforce the same ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : (*a*) The Assembly has passed the resolution.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know the date on which the resolution was passed ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : I claim notice.

Fare on the Trivandrum-Quilon line of the Transport Department.

178 *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) when the fare on the Trivandrum-Quilon line of the Transport Department was increased ;

(*b*) by how much was the increase ; and

(*c*) what was the immediate necessity for such an increase ?

MR. K. SANKARAN : (*a*) and (*b*). The fare was not increased; but the concessional rate of Chs. 14 was stopped with effect from 15-11-1939 and the original rate of Chs. 21 was restored.

(*c*) The concession was stopped as the railway fare was increased and also as the cost of fuel, engine oil and spare parts went up on account of the war.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Sir, may I know the fare on the Trivandrum-Quilon line before the Government Transport Service was introduced ?

MR. K. SANKARAN : I think it was seven annas.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDHANAN NAIR : May I know whether the fare of 21 chakrams now introduced is not a great increase ?

MR. K. SANKARAN : Seven annas was fixed by the owner of a private service.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether the private owners were not making a profit when the fare was only seven annas ?

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MR. K. SANKARAN: I cannot say whether they were making a profit or not.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I inform the member.....

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will realise that this is the time for asking questions and not imparting information to Government which should be done by correspondence.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether there is any rule that the railway authorities cannot enhance the fare beyond a prescribed rate ?

MR. K. SANKARAN: The fixing of the rate by the railway authorities is done according to their own discretion.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether there is no statutory provision in regard to the fixing of the rates ?

MR. K. SANKARAN: The railway authorities are governed by the Indian Railway Act.

MR PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know by what proportion they can enhance the rate at any time ?

MR. K. SANKARAN: I claim notice.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I knw whether there is any relation between the railway fare and the bus fare ?

MR. K. SANKARAN: In order to avoid competition the fare ought to be uniform.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the disparity between the railway fare and the bus fare between Trivandrum and Quilon at present ?

MR. K. SANKARAN: I think it is practically the same.

PRESIDENT: There was a conference between the railway authorities and this Government and proposals are under consideration for preventing useless competition between the Transport Department and the railway. As it is, this Government have to pay a very heavy deficit in respect of the working of the railway and the idea is that whichever way you work it must be possible for this Government not to sustain a greater loss than at present. It is in view to that that certain proposals are under consideration.

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